

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 5 and 17-19 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 17-20 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5 AND 17-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HOWARD ET AL. (US 6,584,505)

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that Howard et al. ("Howard") teaches the claimed invention, particularly the features as described in claims 5 and 17-20. The Examiner believes the claimed present invention is described in column 7, lines 10-35 and 44-67 of Howard.

Howard discloses that when a user seeks to access affiliate servers, each of the affiliate servers is configured to redirect the user browser to a "sign-in" web page of an authentication server (see column 6, lines 53-63). The authentication server sets cookies and again redirects the user browser back to the initially accessed service server after confirming validity of data input using the "sign-in" web page. In Howard, it appears that a user is required to provide "sign-in" information (i.e., identification or password information) to access the authentication server.

However, as evidenced by the above-described disclosure, Howard is fundamentally different from the present invention. According to the present invention, when a user accesses a particular service of a plurality of services, a transmitting device transmits common certificate information in common with the plurality of services respectively provided by different business organizations to a certifying unit which manages common certificate information corresponding to service information of available services that the user can access (see claim 5). Howard does not disclose this feature as recited in claim 5.

Further, in the present invention, the user can access a particular service of the plurality of services without requiring identification information or password information issued by the services (see claim 5). Support for this feature may be found at page 7, lines 5 through 11.

Howard also discloses that a customized display is generated for a user, but does nothing more than state that "the authentication server generates a sign-in web page and

communicates the web page to the client computer system for display on the user's browser." Howard is silent regarding any of its affiliate servers generating layout information required for displaying information provided from another affiliate server in a screen of the service server that has generated the layout information and transmitting the generated layout information to the browser of a user. Therefore, Howard fails to disclose "a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certificating unit and providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services received from the certificating unit, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region" (see claim 5).

Independent claims 5 and 17-20 recite similar features as claim 5. Claim 17 recites, "a service utilizing device receiving service information of available services and providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region; and a user terminal receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service."

Claim 18 recites, "transmitting service information of available services, and in response, providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region; and receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service."

Claim 19 recites, "determining whether any one of the services of the multiple providers are available to a user by sending an inquiry including a common certificate to a certifying authority; and providing layout data defining display of service information of a first available service to a terminal of the user based on a result of the inquiry, wherein the layout data is displayed in a single display region and includes service information of a second available service determined to be available based on the result of the inquiry, and wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region."

Claim 20 recites, "enabling access to a first service server; generating layout information required for displaying information of a second service server in a display region displaying

service information of the first service server; and displaying the generated layout information via a user terminal.”

Accordingly, all of claims 5 and 17-20 patentably distinguish over Howard.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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